

iEARN Centre Pakistan Society for International Education



Newsletter
July - September 2013



Building Bridges through Photojournalism

After successful completion of the iEARN Photojournalism 2.0 from August 2012 to September 2013, iEARN Pakistan hosted a PJ2.0 Regional Workshop and Exhibition from August 27 to 30, for teachers and students from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The four day photojournalism workshop started on 27 August with sessions on Photography and Image Editing. The exhibition for students' work was opened on 28 August by Kimberly Strollo, Cultural Affairs Officer of U.S. Consulate General Karachi.



Talking on the inauguration of photo gallery Kimberly Strollo, Cultural Affairs Officer of U.S. Consulate General, said, "Photojournalism is more than just taking a few pictures; in today's world of social media it is even more critical." She further added that visual messages have power to educate, entertain and persuade. Her message to the young photo journalists was: "Your work can move people to care and take action on issues of importance to society."

The PJ 2.0 Regional Workshop and Exhibition included training workshop on photojournalism sessions and photo exhibition. Teachers and students who were part of this program participated in the event. The program included the inaugural of PJ 2.0 photo exhibition, followed by country presentations by teachers and students. Later half of the program included session on 'Advanced Techniques of Photojournalism and Photography', focusing mainly on 'Light' and 'Digital Photostory' sessions. At the end, the participants were given certificate of completion for the program. See more photos, visit [SIE facebook page](#).

iEARN Pakistan delegate at iEARN International Conference 2013

In July 2013, a 14-member iEARN Pakistan delegation represented Pakistan at the 20th iEARN International Conference and 17th Youth Summit held in Doha, Qatar. The conference enabled the participants to interact with hundreds of educators, students and administrators from more than 50 different countries worldwide.

The theme of the conference focused on the use of technologies in education to reach out, learn and build a better world together. The participants were able to attend plenary sessions, deliver workshops, share experiences, and connect with their peers from across the world to build global understanding using technology. The delegation from Pakistan presented seven workshop altogether – five in the iEARN International Conference and two in the Youth Summit. They also rocked the stage by performing a cultural dance that represented all provinces of Pakistan and received a thunderous applause from the audience.

Message from iEARN USA..

My weeklong visit to Pakistan in August, left me inspired and in awe of the incredible iEARN Pakistan team! In Karachi, I was lucky to attend the Photojournalism 2.0 Regional Workshop and Exhibition, along with teachers from Tajikistan.



Throughout the workshop, I saw the iEARN Pakistan team and teacher network welcome their Tajik colleagues, learn with them, make lifelong connections, and in the end, celebrate the true essence of global collaboration.

Later in the week, I had the opportunity to meet YES iEARN alumni in Islamabad and Karachi, where once again, I was left completely inspired! Never have I met a group of young people so passionate to contribute and make a positive impact in their communities.

Thank you iEARN Pakistan for welcoming me into your network and exemplifying the impact of true global collaboration!

Aqeela Jogee Cutter
Program Manager
iEARN USA



Learning with the world, not just about it...

Celebrating Peace Day with Officials from US Consulate, Karachi

The International Peace Day was celebrated on September 21, in all Access centers with an aim to promote love and peace in our communities and across the globe. One of the Access centers in Karachi celebrated this occasion with officials from the US Consulate, Karachi: Philip Assis, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer (CAAO) and Aisha Amanullah, English Coordinator. The consulate officials interacted with the students got engaged in different activities planned for celebrating Peace Day.



One of the activities included presentation by a YES alumni on the theme 'Tolerance of Differences'. Hasan Iqbal, a YES alumni, had an interactive session where he highlighted how important it is to have tolerance for differences. The presentation was followed by a group activity where students prepared posters on 'Similarities and Differences between Pakistan and America'. The US Consulate representatives felt pleased with the Access students' enthusiasm and confidence for learning English language. The CAO said he enjoyed observing the group activity where students were identifying similarities between Pakistan and U.S. Some of the messages expressed by Access students on Peace Day are shared below:



Abbas said, "I want peace of mind, love, care and sympathy not only for myself but for the whole world."

Faizan, another Access student advised: "Respect your teachers and parents. I'm sure peace will come to us."

Hussain observed, "Peace develops strong relationships."

Officials of U.S. Consulate, Karachi Visit Access Hyderabad

On September 9, Kimberly Strollo, Cultural Affairs Officer along with Philip Assis, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, visited an Access center in Hyderabad. They visited Access classrooms, interacted with the students and inquired about various Access activities and events which had taken place in Hyderabad.



The U.S. Consulate personnel showed their interest in knowing about the students' English language proficiency and intellectual development via this program. Students got a wonderful opportunity to converse directly with native speakers of American English, which enhanced their confidence as English language learners. The consulate officials also participated in on-going classroom activities including jazz chants and learning through songs.

Trace Travels to Access Hyderabad, Pakistan



The students of Access Hyderabad found a wonderful source for enhancing their English language skills by playing 'Trace Effects', an animated computer game developed by the US Department of State. Whenever they get the opportunity to play the game, the students seem to be quickly engrossed in the game and want to go on and on. Other than the entertainment value, the game is used by teachers for enhancing specific language skills – for example, the students draw pictures of their favorite character and write adjectives to describe it. The game also enables them to learn more about American culture and society.

YES Ramadan Projects

During month of July (1 to 31 July), the YES Alumni Pakistan observed the holy month of Ramadan nationwide. In the *YES Ramadan Project*, YES alumni took part in the planning and implementation of the project. Through this project the YES alumni were able to serve the poor and needy in various communities. The experiential learning and capacity building for all was immense.



With the help of 15 days of intensive social media campaigning, YES Alumni Pakistan were able to distribute 300+ food packages to the needy families. In phase 2, YES Alumni reached out to orphanages, where they distributed Eid gifts to the children so they do not feel left out on this holy festival.

A YES alumna shared her experience, "I have never experienced such great satisfaction in the Ramadan before. The *YES Ramadan Project* was worth every minute spent on planning and working."

Alumni Presentations at Access-Karachi Centers

This week, Access-Karachi students were briefed about 'Tolerance of Difference' by the YES alumni as a part of enhancement activities. YES alumni visited different Access centers to give talks on cultural diversity and tolerance.

The Access students asked them related questions, learned more about different cultures and broadened their horizons in terms of respecting different cultures and traditions. One of the questions was how to become more tolerant towards different cultures. The YES alumna, Warisha Atiq answered, "Just learn to kill your ego and become flexible and more adoptable."

K-L YES, batch of 2013-14, Departs for the United States of America

A cohort of 108 youth ambassadors, from all over Pakistan, left for United States as a part of Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (K-L YES) Program in the month of August, 2013. On reaching the US they were warmly welcomed by their American friends and families and have by now adjusted well to the new environment. The reports of their early days in the US all strongly indicate that these bright young souls have been representing Pakistan with true spirits and dignity in their American host families and high schools.



YES Alumni Pakistan Medical Camp

A YES Alumni Medical Camp was held in Karachi on 28-29 September. The camp concluded with a productive outcome: A total of 1200+ patients received free medical treatment and diagnostic services. For two days, YES alumni collaborated with 'The Essa Lab' and offered medical to underprivileged people who do not have access to quality healthcare by providing them free diabetes tests, medical check-ups and discounts on other testing services.

iEARN Pakistan staff helped the YES alumni in carrying out this project and provided the necessary support for the whole event. Positive framework and planning by YES Alumni Karachi led to the successful execution of this project. Activities were being reported live on social media by volunteer YES Alumni.

Using the hashtag #YESEssaMed, the campaign reached out to more than 50,000 people all over Twitter and Facebook.

A number of local TV, Radio and Newspaper organizations covered the event as well. Dr. Arsalan, who volunteered his services as a physician said, "I feel nothing but blessed to be here and take part in assisting the community. If it wasn't about the positive message that your team (YES Alumni) is spreading around, I would not have been here".



Youth Technology Camp by YES Alumni



In the iEARN Technology Camps (August 20 - September 7), the focus of the YES Alumni trainers was on enhancing the knowledge of students about basic social media and positive usage of citizen journalism. The interactive technology based sessions were conducted in Kohat, Abbottabad, Attock and Islamabad, respectively. Nearly 200 students participated in the camp benefited and became student journalists from their regions, while 25 YES alumni participated as the trainers sharing their valuable expertise to make the camp a success for everyone.

The participating students learned about the effective use of social media campaigns through online forums and experienced their usefulness for the promotion of cross-cultural learning. All the sessions were designed in a manner to ensure adequate learning experience for the students so that they could practice further, implement their learning after the camp and replicate the knowledge through acquired skills.



Project Re-Educate Goes Into Action

"Project Re-Educate was a 3-day workshop, conducted on 26-28 September by YES Alumni KPK, focused on motivating the students of Al-Asar Academy, Kohat to learn and work for the betterment of community. This was a project funded by the American Councils for International Education as a result of 2013 YES Alumni Grants Program. During the workshop, the students learned about various sessions through interactive games and activities. The sessions were: Team Building, Cleanliness of Environment, Recycling, Child Rights, Capacity/Confidence Building, Importance of Community Services, Time Management etc. Each session was designed in a manner to share maximum information with the students and motivate them to learn further about them at school and home. These sessions were conducted by a group of YES Alumni Pakistan.

K-L YES Moments...

Sultan, a youth ambassador from Mardan, KPK writes, "I'm experiencing the best culturally rich gatherings here in the US. When I am told to share about my Pakistan, I stand with dignity to share our rich culture, traditions and customs. I feel proud of my country and the YES experience made me realize the real worth of Pakistan. My cultural board won the first prize for 'Most creative board'. I am thoroughly learning and enjoying my year in the US."

Sultan is currently studying in Iowa, US as a part of Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program.



Rabia, another youth ambassador from Pakistan shares, "I felt proud when National Anthem of Pakistan echoed in American High School."

Rabia, currently living and studying in Virginia City, U.S. as a part of the KL YES Program, has been sharing her culture in the US with her friends and host family members. During her first presentation about Pakistan, she shared the National Anthem of Pakistan with dignity and her classmates at high school stood up to show respect in its regard. Click here to watch Rabia's [video](#).

Find more exciting [KL YES moments](#) on [SIE facebook page](#).





Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with O3 participants

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted for O3 (Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World) project on 20 September. iEARN staff visited the participating schools of O3 program to conduct FGDs with students. Some groups of students from three O3 schools also visited iEARN Centre, Islamabad later in the afternoon for discussion. The objective focus group discussions was to understand what teachers and students feel being a Punjabi and what is their understanding of the Punjabi culture in India and Pakistan, and to share thoughts and concerns about peace in the region.



O3 Training for Year 2 teachers and students

A full day training workshop was conducted for a group of 21 educators and 25 students at iEARN Centre Islamabad for **O3: Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World** project on September 21, 2013. The group consisted of teachers and educators of both the new schools and returning schools from different towns and villages near Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The workshop focused at introducing participants with core program concepts, better understanding of methodologies used - such as performing arts- and the importance of building core competencies within students like leadership and collaboration. Various sessions of the workshop included team building, cultural art activities and theatre performances. The participants took great interest and participated actively in the session activities. Students did an amazing job of preparing cultural banners and performed short skits.



Alexis Sullivan, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, US Embassy Islamabad visited the iEARN Center, Islamabad and met with participating teachers and students. Ms. Sullivan appreciated the cultural presentations and performances done by the participants. The participants shared their experiences, learning and the impact of *O3 Program*.

The **O3: Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World**, is an educational initiative to foster cross-cultural understanding and social ties by connecting students, educators, and artists in East and West Punjab (India and Pakistan) and the United States through the use of multimedia, music, dance, and theatre.

Celebrate UN International Days by Integrating iEARN Projects

International Day of Older Persons
(October 1)

iEARN Project: Oral History

Universal Children's Day
(November 20)

iEARN Project: Global Art-Sense of Caring

Human Rights day
(December 10)

iEARN Project: One Right, One People

Download lesson plans at:

http://www.iearnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm

Orientation Session for Teachers of Adobe Youth Voices 2013-14

iEARN Pakistan has selected six educators from Karachi to participate in Adobe Youth Voices Program 2013-14. Currently, these educators are participating in an eight week AYV online course that started on 23 September. After completing the course, the educators will engage students and facilitate them to complete their final project highlighting social issues of their communities.



A Project of Society for Int'l Education

International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)



<http://www.youtube.com/iearnpk>



<http://www.facebook.com/sie.earn>



<http://twitter.com/iEARNPAK>

www.iearnpk.org

